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COMPSTALL URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1925.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF

W. ARTHUR JACKSON

M.B., Ch.B., Liverpool. M.D., Liverpool.

Medical Officer of Health,

GLEN-GARTH, MARPLE

Telephone 186,

AND

CHARLES S. RIGHTON

F.S.I., M.I.M.C.E.,

Surveyor and Inspector,

18, MARKET STREET, MARPLE.

Telephone 104.

COMPSTALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the Compstall Urban
District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health of your district for the year 1925.

The Ministry of Health has intimated that the 1925 Report shall be a survey report, in which the sanitary circumstances of the area for the past five years shall be reviewed. I regret to say that there is not much to report under the heading of Sanitary Improvements during this period.

The health of the area during 1925 has been good, and the number of infectious diseases reported is very small, and a very satisfactory feature is the fact that there were only two cases of diphtheria.

The Birth and Death Rates are lower than last year, the respective figures being 11.3 and 8.2 per 1,000, the estimated figures for the whole country being 18.3 and 12.2 per 1,000.

The water supply was maintained even during the abnormally dry summer.

The County Medical Officer, in his report for 1924, comments that "a sewage disposal scheme is needed for the Compstall Urban District."

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in Acres	903.
Population Census (1921)	940.
Population (estimated) (1925)	970.

The district of Compstall is partly urban and partly rural. It is situated in North-East Cheshire, on the slopes of the Werneth Hills. The general aspect is South, and the area abuts on the County of Derby.

Number of inhabited houses (1921)	243.
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	243.
Rateable Value	£5,500.
A penny rate is estimated to produce	£21.

The inhabitants of the urban area are almost wholly employed in Cotton Mills. The remainder of the population mainly comprises farmers and their workers. These two industries would not appear to be detrimental to the public health, the average age at death last year being 67 years.

Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total.	Males.	Females.
Births	{ Legitimate... ..	11	2	9
	{ Illegitimate	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

Birth Rate 11.3 per 1,000.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Deaths	8	2	6

Death Rate 8.2 per 1,000.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of child birth... .. } from sepsis, nil.
 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, } ,, other causes, nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

Legitimate Nil.

Illegitimate Nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.
 ,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil.
 ,, ,, Diarrhœa (under two years of age) Nil.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals Subsidised by the Local Authority.

The Local Authority retained up to the end of the year two beds in the Hyde Isolation Hospital (four miles distant) for infectious diseases and others are usually available if required.

The Maternity and General Hospitals of the City of Manchester (12 miles distant), are available for the district, and also the Stockport General and Poor Law Infirmaries (four miles distant).

There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children in the district.

Ambulance Facilities.

There is no ambulance in the district. The Stockport Police Ambulance is available in all emergencies, and the Hyde Hospital Ambulance collects all infectious cases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Early in 1925 the County Council established a Child Welfare Centre in the district. This has had a very satisfactory year, and is much appreciated by the mothers of the district. The attendances are good.

Public Health Offices of the Local Authority.

There are two-part-time Officers employed by the Local Authority: the Medical Officer and the Sanitary Officer, to whose salary contribution is made under the Public Health Acts. No subsidiary officers are employed.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General, and (b) for Infectious Diseases.

(a.) The District Nurse employed by the District Sick Nursing Association is available for all kinds of general nursing.

(b) No arrangements exist for the nursing of infectious diseases at home. Cases of the more severe infections are removed to hospital as soon as possible. Cases of a milder infection, such as Measles,

are nursed at home. It has been found, however, that it is almost impossible to isolate such cases completely, owing to the small size of the houses, and the presence of other children therein. It is, therefore, to be regretted that there will be in the future unavoidable epidemics of the milder infections.

Midwives.

The District Nurse is the only midwife practising in the area.

Legislation in Force.

Stockport Rural District Council Bye-Laws, 7th June, 1880.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Water supply of the urban part of the district is abundant, constant, and of good potable value. It is obtained from upland springs, conveyed to two reservoirs, and thence by mains to the houses.

The rural community draws its water from various springs on Werneth Low. Many of these are satisfactory, but others, more especially that supplying the Hare and Hounds block, are not so good, and are liable to pollution. An endeavour has been made to obtain a fresh supply for this area, but so far unsuccessfully.

The possibilities of contamination are small, and suitable precautions are taken if any such possibility is detected. The reservoirs have been twice cleaned out and limed. The water has no plumbosolvent action.

Rivers and Streams.

The river Etherow flows along the southern border of the district. It is contaminated from works above Compstall, but there is no stagnation.

Drainage and Sewage.

The sewage consists of slop water, which is trapped, drained, mixed with the river and spring water, and passed into the Mill reserve. A slight odour is noticed from this only in very hot weather.

The rural sewage is passed directly into the ground, and appears to be dealt with satisfactorily, in view of the fact that dwellings are scattered in this part of the area.

Closet Accommodation.

The closet system of the area is obsolete. It consists of dry earth closets of the midden privy and pail type. The number of privy middens is only very slowly diminishing, there being 70 in 1920, and 50 in 1925.

Owing to the absence of a sewage scheme, it has so far been impossible to instal water closets which are the ideal at which to aim.

Number of privy middens converted to pail closets during 1924 6.

Total number of midden privies 50.

Total number of pail closets 97.

Scavenging.

The ash-pits are emptied regularly under the supervision of the Council. The tip is remote from any dwellings. The inhabitants have been reminded of the fact that they would help considerably by burning as much household refuse as possible.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector has made frequent inspections of the premises in the area. In 11 cases only were defects discovered, and these were remedied without recourse to statutory notices.

Smoke Abatement.

The Authority has not found cause to take any action under this heading. A works recently started just on the border of the area was inspected, but it was found to be working quite satisfactorily, and no action was required.

Workshops and Workplaces.

There are in the area the following: One Mill, one Bakehouse, and five General Stores. These are all satisfactory, and the installation of 35 new sanitary conveniences at the Mill has been an improvement. There are no Slaughter Houses nor offensive nor dangerous or unhealthy trades in the district.

Schools.

The Schools are kept clean and healthy. The supply of drinking water is good and plentiful. The Play Yard is large, and the closet accommodation ample.

Housing.

General Housing Condition in the Area.

The houses are chiefly of the cottage type. They are of stone construction, and strongly built.

There is no overcrowding, and no houses unfit for human habitation.

The population is slowly increasing, viz.: 940 in 1921 to 970 in 1925. At the present time there is no possibility of any great increase in the population until an efficient water supply and sewage system for the area on the slopes of Werneth Low can be guaranteed.

There are no unhealthy areas in the district.

Housing Statistics for the year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| (a) Total | Nil. |
| (b) With State assistance | Nil. |

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

- | | |
|--|------|
| Inspection (1) Total number of dwelling-house defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 8. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District Regulations, 1910) | 40. |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil. |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | Nil. |

2. Remedy of Defects without Service or Formal Notices.

- | | |
|---|------|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. | Nil. |
|---|------|

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

- A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served during repairs ... Nil.
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:
 - (a) By owners ... Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... Nil.
- B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 2.
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—
 - (a) By owners ... 2.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.
- C. Proceedings under Section 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.
- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... Nil.
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil.
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... Nil.
 - (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil.
 - (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

The Milk supply of the district is obtained from local farmers, and is adequate. All Cow Sheds and Shippons have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector at least twice, and have been found to be clean and lime washed. It has not been found necessary to take any action as to tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle.

(b) Meat.

There being no Slaughter Houses in the area, the responsibility for the supervision of the meat consumed in the area is vested in neighbouring Authorities.

(c) Other Foods.

The Bakehouse and General small Stores are subject to frequent inspection by your Medical and Sanitary Officers.

(d) Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning occurred in the area.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases Generally.

During the years since 1920 the area has been singularly free from infectious disease. The troublesome factor has been the prevalence of Diphtheria during 1923 and 1924, in which years there were 42 and 15 cases respectively. This disease now appears to have abated, since only two very mild cases were notified last year. Both were confirmed by bacteriological examination, and one was given a dose of anti-diphtheretic serum before going to hospital.

The only notifications under the Regulations of January 7th, 1919, i.e., notifications of pneumonia, malaria, dysentery, and trench fever, have been a small number of cases of pneumonia.

Laboratory Work.

The Local Authority subscribe to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory, which last year only examined three specimens. All were swabs from cases of suspected diphtheria, and two were found to be positive.

The Laboratory of the Cheshire County Council is also available, but one specimen only was examined—the sputum from a case of Tuberculosis of the Lungs.

The Laboratory at the Chester Infirmary is also available for specimens from Insured persons, but so far as I know no examinations from this area were required.

No use has so far been made of the Shick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively. The Medical Officer holds a stock of anti-diphtheretic serum, which can be issued as required.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

There have from time to time been small outbreaks of the non-notifiable infections, but they have not given rise to much trouble, and the outbreaks have usually been mild, and of short duration.

Houses in which cases of infection have been living are at once disinfected and thoroughly cleaned, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Diphtheria... ..	2	2	0
Enteric Fever & Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia... ..	4	0	0
Ophthalmia Neomotorum. ...	0	0	0
Other diseases generally notifiable... ..	0	0	0

Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary.

New Cases.		Deaths.	
Male ... 0.	Female ... 1.	Male ... 0.	Female ... 1.
(Pulmonary, aged 55 years).			

It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. ARTHUR JACKSON, M.D., Ch.B.,

Glengarth, Marple,

Medical Officer of Health.

Cheshire, March 3rd, 1926.

(Tel. 186 and 49).

Surveyor and Inspector's Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1925.

Gentlemen,

Highways.

The district Highways of your area have been efficiently cleansed, and particular attention has been given to the drains and channels during the year. There are several short lengths which will require re-coating, and the surface of the main road in the village should be improved.

Lighting.

The Council during the year have taken over the Lighting, which has hitherto been carried out by the Calico Printers' Association. New lanterns and fittings, with clocks, have been installed, which have improved the illumination of the village.

Plans.

The following plans were submitted and approved during the year:—

1. Extension to two cottages for Mr. J. T. Wood.
2. Extension to Compstall Liberal Club.
3. Alteration at the Mount, Werneth Low.
4. Installation of Petrol Pump for Mrs. Beard.

Applications for new sites and extensions to the temporary dwelling-houses on Werneth Low have been brought to the notice of the Council, who do not consider it advisable to permit further erections until better arrangements are made for (a) Supplying them with water, and (b) disposing of the sewage. Their temporary nature and low rateable value will require careful consideration before the Council is committed to an expensive water and sewerage scheme.

An endeavour has been made to obtain a supply of water for the Hare and Hounds block of property from the Hyde Corporation.

The water supply to the low part of the district has been maintained throughout the year without difficulty. The reservoirs have been twice cleaned out and limed.

Regional Planning.

The Council have been represented at several meetings of the Manchester and District Joint Town Planning Advisory Committee. They have indicated that they are prepared to join a decentralised area group, that will be in sympathy with the best development of their district; and in particular will have a tendency to provide those services that are most required.

Sanitary Matters.

An inspection has been made of the sanitary arrangements and exposed parts of the drainage to all the dwelling-houses in the district, and the School, which were generally in order.

The whole of the dairies and shippons in the area have been inspected at least twice. They were white-washed, and kept in a clean state.

Further premises in the district were inspected as follows:—

Dwelling-houses and temporary structures used for habitation	40.
House and Farm building drainage	10.
Pond fouled by waterfowl, etc.	1.
Total	51.

In these 51 cases 11 defects were discovered, nine of which are remedied and two are still in hand. Six houses have had pails installed in place of their previous privy arrangement.

During the year two cases of infectious disease have occurred, which were Diphtheria, and both were sent to Hospital. In each case the necessary precautions were taken to prevent infection.

The privies are emptied regularly, and kept as free from nuisance as possible. The buildings therefor are in a fair condition, but their near proximity to dwellings in many cases will have a deleterious effect on the health of that part of the district. The Council might, therefore, consider a sewerage scheme so that water closets can be substituted for privies.

The re-building of 35 Sanitary Conveniences at the Compstall Mills have been completed. These have external communication, and they are an excellent improvement. The Pure White Metal Company started a new industry, and no deleterious effect have been observed from the fumes emitted from the furnaces.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. S. RIGHTON,

F.S.I., M.Inst. M. and Cy. E., L.R.I.B.A.,

Surveyor and Inspector.

18, Market Street, Marple.

Telephone 104 Marple.

3rd day of March, 1926.

